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# TCAP Achievement Grades 3-8; ELSA and ELDA

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# General ELL (English Language Learner) Information

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- As of 2008 the State of Tennessee has identified about 31,000 ELL (English Language Learners) in our school system
- About 80% are Hispanic
- The second largest ELL group in Tennessee is Arabic at about 5%
- About 108 other language groups make up the remaining 15%

# ELDA & ELSA

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**The two tests in Tennessee which apply only to the ELL population are: ELDA & ELSA**

# ELDA

## English Language Development Assessment

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### Why is the ELDA given?

- Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) states are required to assess the proficiency of ELL students
- According to Title III under NCLB, states are to measure annual growth of an ELL students English development in reading, writing, listening, and speaking

# **Title III & Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO)**

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“Sec. 3122. Achievement Objectives and Accountability.

“(a) Achievement Objectives.-

“(1) In General. – Each State educational agency or specifically qualified agency receiving a grant under subpart 1 shall develop annual measurable achievement objectives for limited English proficient children served under this part that relate to such children’s development and attainment of English proficiency while meeting challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as required by section 111(b)(1).

# AMAOs

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- AMAO 1 – The extent of progress, if any, ESL students are making in LEA (if any improvement is made on any subtest in ELDA from the previous year)
- AMAO 2 – The extent to which ESL students are attaining proficiency in English. (Score of 4 or 5 on the ELDA)
- AMAO 3 –Based on if the ESL subgroup makes adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading/language arts as determined by TCAP

# ELDA facts

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- It is not a timed assessment, however an approximate time for the entire test is between three and four hours depending on the grade cluster
- It is given in grade clusters (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)
- It consists of four subtests – Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking

# ELDA facts continued...

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- The testing window for ELDA is normally during the month of March with scores returned in June
- It has a score ranging from the lowest of 1 to 5 being the highest
- Students who obtain a composite score of 4 or 5 become a Transitional student (T1)
- It is a Norm Referenced Test currently used by seven states including Tennessee
- No accommodations are allowed because it tests proficiency



# ELDA Screener Test

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- This week Tennessee is participating in a field test for the grades 3-12 ELDA Screener
- The purpose is to have a valid assessment for new students who are suspected of being Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- We hope to have the test operational by early 2009

# ELSA

## English Linguistically Simplified Assessment

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- It will be available for Achievement test as of Spring 2010
- Intended for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students
- Unlike ELDA, it is a criterion referenced test (CRT) - based on Tennessee curriculum standards
- It is the Achievement test (TCAP) in “simplified” English

# Characteristics of simplified language assessments, e.g. ELSA

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- Reduce wordiness
- Use high-frequency (common) words
- Avoid words with multiple meanings
- Use concrete words, not abstract ones
- Reduce complexity of sentence structure
- Use the simplest verb forms
- Use a context that is no more complex than required

# ELSA characteristics

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- Reduce linguistic barriers to measurement of the intended knowledge or skill
- The knowledge or skill being assessed must not be changed
- Challenging vocabulary should be used only when it is relevant to the knowledge or skill being assessed
- Same Achievement test (as are large print and Braille versions)

# What about accommodations?

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- **Allowable ELL accommodations can still be given to students taking the ELSA**

# 2008-2009 English Language Learner (ELL) Accommodations

Accommodations		Documentation Verification		TCAP Achievement	TCAP Competency	TCAP End-of-Course (EOC) / TCAP Gateway	TCAP Writing Assessment	Required Conditions for Accommodations
		IEP	504					
<b>Q</b>	<b>Extended Time<sup>[1]</sup></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Time and a half per subtest OR As determined by IEP / 504 Team	NOT APPLICABLE-Untimed	<b>EOC</b> – Time and a half per test Or As determined by IEP / 504 Team <b>Gateway</b> – NOT APPLICABLE – Untimed	Time and a half or as determined by the IEP Team	ELL
<b>R</b>	<b>Bilingual Dictionary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Not allowed</b> for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	<b>Not Allowed</b> for Language Arts	<b>Not Allowed</b> for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	<b>Not Allowed</b>	ELL
<b>S</b>	<b>Read Aloud in English Internal Test Instructions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	All subtests	May read aloud or use Audio only or Audio with test booklet	All tests	All tests	ELL
<b>T</b>	<b>Read Aloud in English Internal Test Items</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>IEP – All Subtests</b> <b>504 – Not allowed</b> for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	May read aloud or use Audio only or Audio with test booklet	<b>IEP – All Subtests</b> <b>504 – Not Allowed</b> for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	All tests	ELL

<sup>[1]</sup> If the student uses both ELL and Special Accommodations, Extended Time is determined by the IEP Team or 504 Review Committee.

\*T1 and T2 students do NOT receive accommodations.

# Does ELSA affect AMAO?

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**Yes, but only AMAO III which is  
AYP in Reading/Language Arts**

# Does ELSA affect AYP?

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**Yes. ELSA is the TCAP test  
taken by ELL students**



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# Contact information

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